

NEWARK, MISC. WARDS + SECTIONS

JUN

1949

(LATE)

OLD RESIDENT CONTACTSFROM THE COLLECTIONS
OF THE
NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Martin Bross (Former Newark City Clerk)

John Judge, Bond Clothing Co. 146 Market St. Former 9th Ward Alderman
a Democrat in a Republican Ward.

George J. Burger, 913 Bergen Street, Retired Patrolman and my stepfather

Fred Denk, Butcher, at Bergen Street & Watson Avenue

Edward Ryan, Renner Ave & Seymour Avenue. In Printing Business

Rev. George McNeely, Pastor of Elizabeth Avenue Baptist Church
All are still living in the neighborhood.

DUCK POND, PAPER MILL, LEHIGH OLD STATION

The East side of Meeker Avenue before construction of streets etc took place in or around 1908 was the old Lehigh Station. Platform was on East Side than and later bigger station was built.

The paper mill stood next to it.

The duck pond known to natives was on that side and took off the overflow of Weequahic Park Lake.

WEEQUAHIC PARK LAKE and Park.

In that period a large number of bogs, tree stumps, etc were removed and boat house was constructed. Both the duck pond and lake were great for ice-skating. It was a great place for muskrat hunting.

The park was improved and noted for its band concerts and 4th of July celebrations. A knoll or island opposite the hill near the Race Track Stand and on side of Route 25 area was used for display of fireworks. People spend the full day.

July 4, 1910 was the Jeffrey-Johnson fight and people were informed as to the progress of the fight. Gloom prevailed when Jeffrey lost.

MCINTURE FARM

This area was cut through for streets from Peshine to Elizabeth avenues and Meeker and Custer avenues extended. Gilligan-Casey Company had the job.

GOLDSMITH FARM

This farm was in area of Bergen Street and Lyons avenue. Goldsmith avenue thus named.

SIXTH PRECINCT

Better police protection in this area took place about 1910 and a store was utilized(I think at 810 Bergen street near Hawthorne avenue) for a precinct. This being a branch of the 4th Precinct. My dad (mounted cop in Weequahic area) was stationed there. Winter days on several occasions I carried in buckets of coal to keep place warm. Later precinct was opened at Bigelow Street and Hunterdon street with fanfare.

FIRST MOVIE HOUSE

About 1911 a silent motion picture house opened a few doors from Hawthorne avenue on Bergen street. It was known as "World In Motion" Theatre and weekly amateur nights were held. It was up on high steps and now a tavern dominates. An open air movie later came on Bergen street near Hawthorne avenue where a big ~~garage~~ garage is now.

JEFFREY PROPERTY- Jackson Property-Yonkers Property

This was in area of Hawthorne avenue and up to Clinton Place. Great place for sleighriding hills etc. Jackson place was used to farm horses and us kids got many chase when we rode the mares without saddle and hung on their necks. Yonkers has a tavern and open picnic place to rear.

RENNER AVENUE ETC

These areas were cut through when land development took place. People used to have to walk over Bergen street to Lyons Avenue and get up to Clinton Place and visa versa on Hawthorne avenue due to areas closed by farm lands. Both Hawthorne and Renner avenues were great for bob sledding etc. Meeker Avenue later utilized for us youngsters.

The Gottfried Krueger Greisenheim (home for some of the aged) was located on Clinton Place near Lyons Avenue and took up a considerable ground. It was noted for picnic parties, metzel soups, ~~###~~ and May wine parties etc and had a large German following. Bands from the German Ships used to come over for the weekends and give concerts. An old trolley car, miniature zoo, and other ~~#####~~ entertainment for children was there. The annual distribution of roses to patrons from the large gardens drew many folks during the June and July months.

A stage coach took patrons to and fro over Clinton Place with passengers alighting at Clinton avenue.

A big fire about 1915 destroyed the bowling alleys and other landmarks on the grounds.

SWIMMING HOLE

In back of the Greisenheim us kids dammed a creek running toward Lyons Avenue and with no houses about we utilized the swimming hole (naked) during the hot summer months.

BERGEN STREET TROLLEY SERVICE EXTENDED TO LYONS AVENUE

The paving of Bergen street and extension of trolley service from Bergen street and Hawthorne avenue to Lyons and Elizabeth avenues took place about 1912 or 1913. My brothers Theodore (now Police Sgt) and August (Engineer on PRR) and myself (News Copy boy then) took petitions around for these two projects. It required many feet of property for approval.

Bergen street was so muddy on rainy days that the neighbors placed beer barrels in the street. ~~#####~~ Planks were pulled over them each time we had to go to a grocery store which was located on second floor across from our home then at 917 Bergen street. Vehicles (horses, carriages, etc) rode between these kegs in middle of street.

WEEQUAHIC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The church was founded on Watson Avenue near Jelliff and us kids attended Sunday School there. Later when the McIntyre Farm was converted into streets etc the church than moved to its present spot at Meeker and Peshine Avenues.

ST. CHARLES BORROMO CATHOLIC CHURCH

This church was founded and cornerstone laid about 1915 with ceremonies. Rev. Walsh, pastor then) with Mr. Denk, Ryan, and others of the Catholic Faith several times had supper at our home and discussed this.

ELIZABETH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH AND ELIZABETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first is an old landmark and Rev. McNeely can give its history. The latter was started during my boyhood days. Opposite the churches where park is was large apple and peach orchards.

BASEBALL

The old Meadowbrooks and Old Ironsides A. C. drew numerous crowds on fields in the Hawthorne and Elizabeth avenue areas. Upon completion of filling in the swamps and ~~garbage~~ garbage dumps the big expansion took place.

The Weequahic Baseball Club ~~####~~ was another noted ball team and played at the rear of the Eliz.Ave. Baptist Church.

I captained the Wide-Awake Ball team comprising ages of 12 to 15 years and we won 25 out of 26 games. Losing a game in 14 innings by a home run (Score 1-0) Brother Gus pitched, Ted played first base, and I the catcher.

"Iron man" McGinnity ace pitcher for Giants and Newark who was noted for pitching two games in one day lived at Meeker Avenue.

Several times he took us kids in tow and taught us various plays. Umpired a few games for us.

On Custer avenue near Custer place we used to witness the Cricket games given by several of the neighbors for pasttime.

Several areas of the section were very low and fill from street sweepings, garbage trucks, and excavation dirt was carried out to these spots for filling and leveling. Where we lived at 913 Bergen street we used to ice skate on the ponds surrounding us.

My folks now living on corner of Hawthorne Place & Bergen street(913) kept a beautiful garden running from 917 Bergen street to the street intersection and down Hawthorne Place. We had a stable, horse and carriage, and us kids had a sulky purchased from one of the drivers at Weequahic Park Race Track. My dad won many blue ribbons with his police horse when they opened the races there. The police (Mounted) had their own race heats during the ceremonies.

NEWARK POLICE BAND

Due to the open places and our house(one family) in good spot at 917 Bergen street was used for the first rehearsals of the Newark Police Band. My dad played for the Newark Police and Newark Elks in their bands. Retired Deputy Chief Sebold, Essex County Policeman Chadwick, and others met each ~~#####~~ week for their "oompas".

Patrolman Gaffney, a band member, was killed on Broad street by a ~~#####~~ bandit the next day after one of his rehearsals at our home.

ELIZABETH AND MEEKER AVENUES.

The Tavern now located there was a great place for ice-skaters going to the Duck Pond and Weequahic Lake. My dad with other police used to shoot it out with railroad cars thieves on the Lehigh tracks.

ELECTION BONFIRES

Big bon fires with crates etc piled nearly 50 feet high (used ladders) and many a gate post etc used took place after many a general election. When 6th Precinct came this was stopped.

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TRESTLE

A trestle at the rear of Weequahic Park crossed Elizabeth avenue to Broad street and Public Service Trolleys took passengers to Elizabeth and nearby areas. Spot is still there in back of the turn near Mayfair theatre on side of Hillside Post Office.

WINAN'S WOODS

This woods laid in near Hillside area and was noted for their chestnuts until blight took its toll. Many a time we come home with bags full for uses for the holidays.

WORLD WAR I AND II

This section had a large representation of veterams who served in both World Wars.

WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL

This section was a great spot for us kids as we used to go out for Elderberries(wine), Wild Cherries(wine) and other blackberry and strawberry pickings. Fields were wild with them.
